

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

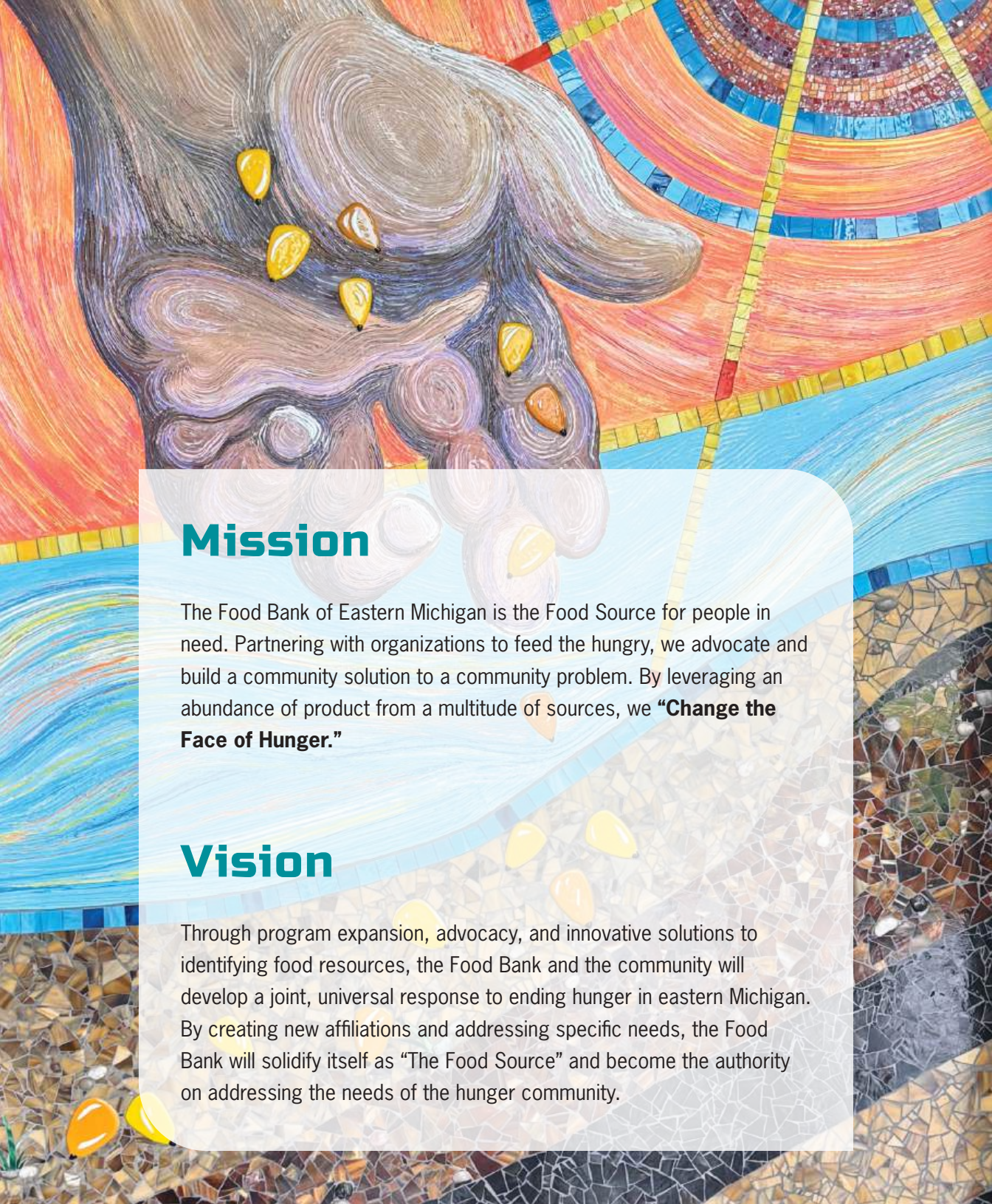


**FOOD
BANK**



of Eastern Michigan





Mission

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is the Food Source for people in need. Partnering with organizations to feed the hungry, we advocate and build a community solution to a community problem. By leveraging an abundance of product from a multitude of sources, we **“Change the Face of Hunger.”**

Vision

Through program expansion, advocacy, and innovative solutions to identifying food resources, the Food Bank and the community will develop a joint, universal response to ending hunger in eastern Michigan. By creating new affiliations and addressing specific needs, the Food Bank will solidify itself as “The Food Source” and become the authority on addressing the needs of the hunger community.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, 2025 was a year of growth, resilience, and impact. As economic challenges continued to affect families across our region, our community responded with generosity, determination, and compassion.

Guided by our mission to be the food source for people with limited access to food, we worked alongside hundreds of partners to expand access to nutritious food throughout our 22-county service area. Together, we distributed nearly 38 million pounds of food, including more than 19 million pounds of fresh produce.

Throughout the year, we increased access through 1,632 mobile pantry distributions, expanded fresh produce deliveries, and strengthened outreach efforts to ensure more families could access healthy food close to home. Our child nutrition programs provided hundreds of thousands of meals, while monthly home-delivered meal boxes helped thousands of older adults maintain reliable access to food.

We also invested in long-term solutions by strengthening partner pantries and expanding services in rural communities, helping build a stronger, more resilient food system for the future.

While more than 234,000 people across our region continue to face food insecurity, we remain committed to creating pathways to better health, greater stability, and expanded opportunity.

Thank you for being an essential part of this mission. Together, we are nourishing our neighbors, strengthening communities, and moving closer to a future where everyone has access to the food they need to thrive.

Kara Ross

President & CEO



CAMPAIGNS



Fox Feeding Frenzy Radiothon



The 103.9 The Fox Feeding Frenzy Radiothon celebrated another record-breaking year in 2025, raising \$71,555 through generous sponsorships and community donations. This annual broadcast brings listeners together to support neighbors facing hunger across eastern Michigan.

March Against Hunger Campaign

Our annual March Against Hunger campaign runs from March 1 through April 30 and empowers partner agencies to raise funds within their communities. Agencies receive marketing materials and a 10% match on funds raised, credited to their accounts for future food orders. In 2025, the campaign generated 157 gifts totaling \$442,464, helping agencies strengthen local hunger relief efforts while engaging community supporters.



Stamp Out Hunger Campaign

Organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), Stamp Out Hunger is the largest single-day food drive in the United States. Each year, residents leave non-perishable food by their mailboxes, which letter carriers collect along their routes.

In 2025, the campaign brought in 291,437 pounds of food, representing a 17% increase from the previous year and providing vital resources for families facing food insecurity.

Holiday Campaign

During the holiday giving season, from October 28 through December 31, the Food Bank raised \$1.6 million to support hunger relief across our region.

This total includes a \$100,000 matching gift from the Big John Steak and Onion Foundation, which was fully matched in just one week. Additional support came from successful third-party fundraisers, including Skaff Carpet Furniture One's \$20,000 matching campaign, along with increased giving from both new and longtime donors.



& ADVOCACY

Dedicated Donor Club

In 2025, the Food Bank launched the Dedicated Donor Club, a new monthly giving program designed to build consistent support for hunger relief. Members contribute electronically each month, helping reduce administrative costs and ensuring more resources go directly toward feeding our neighbors.

With ongoing monthly contributions totaling \$7,000, this initiative strengthens long-term donor relationships while providing reliable, year-round support for our mission.



Feeding America National

In March of 2025, Chief Program Officer, William Farkas, and Chief Development Officer, Crystal Travis, represented the Food Bank at the Feeding America Fly-In in Washington, D.C., meeting with Congressional offices to advocate for critical federal nutrition programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Food Bank secured \$20,000 from Feeding America to support a communications initiative aimed at strengthening messaging, increasing public engagement, and elevating awareness around hunger in eastern Michigan.

With the support from Feeding America, the Food Bank partnered with Cat Slack Communication Consultants to develop a comprehensive crisis communications plan. This initiative establishes clear protocols and internal communication channels to ensure rapid, coordinated responses during emergencies. The project also includes specialized communications training for key staff to strengthen organizational preparedness.





GRANTS

Dollar General Grant

Through funding from Dollar General via the Feeding America network, the Food Bank received a \$100,000 grant to strengthen food sourcing staff capacity. This funding will help expand our retail food rescue program, supporting agency-enabled pickups at Dollar General stores and other retailers across our service area, increasing the amount of food recovered and distributed to neighbors in need.

Going PRO Talent Fund Grant

In July, the Food Bank celebrated the completion of the Going PRO Talent Fund grant, with GST Michigan Works awarding \$136,000 in workforce training support. The funding provided on-the-job training, leadership development, and workforce readiness opportunities for team members across departments—strengthening staff skills while reinforcing our commitment to professional growth.

Partner Agency Grants

In 2025, the Food Bank provided \$243,346 in funding to support partner agency capacity-building projects. These grants help local partners expand food distribution, improve infrastructure, and enhance client-choice models that allow neighbors to select the foods that best meet their needs. Board members also played an important role in reviewing proposals and supporting projects across the region.

Upcoming Renovation

Generous investments from local businesses and foundations are helping advance renovations at the Food Bank's Outreach Center Project, located at 2211 Lapeer Road.

One local foundation awarded \$300,000, while another foundation committed \$500,000 toward the project. These transformative gifts will strengthen our infrastructure and expand our ability to serve communities across eastern Michigan.

PROGRAMS

10 Cents a Meal Program

New in 2025, the 10 Cents a Meal Program supports the Food Bank's ability to distribute locally grown Michigan produce by helping offset purchasing and distribution costs. This initiative increases access to fresh, nutritious food for neighbors while also supporting Michigan farmers and strengthening the state's agricultural economy.

Partner Agency Conference

In 2025, the Food Bank proudly revived its Partner Agency Conference, bringing together agency leaders and staff for a day of collaboration, training, and shared learning. The event featured engaging speakers, breakout sessions, and opportunities for agencies to connect and strengthen their work in communities across our service area.

The conference was met with enthusiastic participation and positive feedback, reinforcing the importance of continued education, collaboration, and support for the organizations on the front lines of hunger relief.

Medically Tailored Meal Boxes

In partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan and Michigan-based health plans, the Food Bank launched a pilot In-Lieu of Service program designed to support individuals with medically based nutritional needs.

Specialized food boxes—shared through our partner agencies—are delivered through medical referrals. The program is fully reimbursed by participating health plans and represents an innovative, sustainable approach to nutrition-based care.



NORTHERN EXPANSION

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's Northern Expansion Project is a strategic effort to improve food access in rural and underserved northern Michigan. More than half of the service area is rural, with food insecurity rates exceeding 17% — well above state and national averages. Limited transportation, long delivery distances, and insufficient storage make it difficult for families to consistently access nutritious food, especially fresh items.

To address these barriers, the Food Bank is constructing a satellite warehouse in Gaylord, Michigan to expand capacity and bring food closer to high-need communities.

In partnership with Feeding America West Michigan, this investment will improve efficiency, reduce food waste, and strengthen partnerships with local farmers and nonprofit agencies across the region.

Partners Supporting our Efforts

In 2025, the Food Bank launched a new partnership with Enbridge, North America's premier energy infrastructure company. Enbridge provided a \$50,000 grant, with \$25,000 supporting truck sponsorship and \$25,000 dedicated to the Northern Expansion Project.



Proposed Render of Northern Facility

We also received a transformative commitment from the Carls Foundation, which approved a two-year, \$500,000 grant—providing \$250,000 annually to support development of the Northern Expansion Project.

The Lions Clubs of Michigan, in collaboration with the Michigan Lions Foundation, also raised \$50,000 for the expansion which unlocked an additional \$150,000 in matching funds from the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Feeding America Grant

Fundraising momentum for the Northern Expansion Project accelerated with an \$800,000 Equity in Communities, Boundless Collaborations Implementation grant from Feeding America. This significant investment supports expanded infrastructure and partnerships to strengthen food access in northern Michigan.

USDA Rural Development Funding for Northern Project

In November, the Food Bank received approval for \$2 million in federal funding to support the Northern Expansion Project in Gaylord. The funding request—submitted through the office of Elissa Slotkin—was approved via the Congressionally Directed Spending under the USDA Rural Development Community Project Funding and will help with purchasing equipment for the Northern Expansion Project.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Technology Investments

Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Feeding America's Multi-Donor Strategic Services initiative, the Food Bank made important technology investments in 2025 to strengthen operations, improve security, and support long-term growth.

Upgrades to the organization's network infrastructure created a more reliable and secure technology environment, improving connectivity and system performance across the organization. These improvements help ensure staff can carry out daily operations efficiently while protecting important data and systems.

The Food Bank also enhanced its boardroom technology to support more effective communication and collaboration, allowing for smoother presentations and improved hybrid meeting capabilities with partners and stakeholders.

In addition, the organization upgraded staff computers and software to improve performance and security, while ensuring reliable equipment is available for daily work.

Together, these investments help the Food Bank operate more efficiently, support staff across departments, and build a stronger technological foundation for the future.

OPERATIONS &

Compliance, Safety, and Operational Excellence

In March, the Food Bank welcomed the Feeding America Partner Engagement Team for a learning consultation related to our updated partnership agreement. The visit included discussions on operations, safety protocols, compliance standards, food sourcing, and volunteer engagement, helping ensure our practices align with national best practices while strengthening our ability to serve neighbors.



Volunteer Engagement

In 2025, the Food Bank implemented new volunteer management software, CERVIS volunteer management software, to streamline scheduling, tracking, and reporting.

The system allows the team to monitor individual and group volunteer hours, assign projects more efficiently, and measure volunteer impact through the pounds of food processed. These improvements help maximize the incredible contributions volunteers make to our hunger relief efforts.

13,863 volunteers also gave their time and talent for an incredible 38,438 hours (a 37% increase from fiscal year 2024). Of special note are our friends at Freedom Works, who made volunteering a regular part of their routine by visiting us 4 days a week, 3 hours a day.

We worked with 23 new groups that, all together, managed to sort 28 million pounds of food.

FOOD SOURCING



Summer Youth Initiative

The 2025 Summer Youth Initiative (made possible by Flint & Genesee Education & Talent) was another strong success, engaging 45 students from late June through mid-August, along with 40 additional students from 5 partner summer programs.

Youth participants supported operations across Food Bank facilities, collectively helping process over 1 million pounds of food in just a few weeks—making a meaningful contribution to hunger relief throughout the region while gaining valuable work experience.

Food Sourcing and Inventory

To better support our partner agencies, the Food Bank enhanced the Agency Express ordering portal by adding product photos and nutritional details. These improvements help agencies make more informed choices when ordering food, allowing them to prioritize healthy, nutritious options for the communities they serve.



NAVIGATING A SHUTDOWN

Statewide Response to SNAP Disruptions

Following the government shutdown and a temporary pause in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the State of Michigan allocated \$4.5 million in emergency funding to the Food Bank Council of Michigan. The funds were distributed among Michigan's seven food banks to expand food distribution across the state.

Between November 1 and November 17, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan distributed 2,503,429 pounds of food, equivalent to 2,086,191 meals, through partner agencies serving 22 counties, helping families navigate the temporary disruption in benefits.



DTE Funding for Northern and Thumb Regions

During the peak of the federal government shutdown, in the Fall of 2025, the DTE Foundation provided an additional \$50,000 grant to support mobile food pantry distributions in the Northern and Thumb regions of our service area.

This funding arrived at a critical time for rural communities still recovering from the previous year's ice storm, helping ensure families had continued access to nutritious food during a period of heightened uncertainty.

City of Flint Supplemental Food Distribution

As the 43-day federal shutdown created uncertainty around federal assistance programs, the City of Flint partnered with the Food Bank to provide additional support ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Together, we distributed 900 supplemental food boxes to local households. Each 30-pound shelf-stable food box was enhanced with fresh produce provided by the Food Bank, including 3-pound bags of apples and 10-pound bags of potatoes.



The program was met with strong community appreciation, ensuring families had the resources needed to prepare holiday meals during a challenging time.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30, 2025

REVENUE

Donated Food	\$ 56,923,894.00
Cash Donations	\$ 4,767,137.00
Grants	\$ 7,114,340.00
Purchased Food Reimbursements	\$ 2,310,008.78
Agency Shared Maintenance	\$ 1,532,313.22
Other Revenue	\$ 2,329,714.00
	\$ 74,977,407.00

**Meals
Distributed**
31,030,317

**Meals
Per Day**
85,015

EXPENSES

Donated Food	\$ 56,938,574.00
Purchased Food	\$ 5,416,536.00
Programs & Outreach	\$ 9,351,593.00
Fundraising	\$ 842,479.00
Administration	\$ 1,028,318.00
	\$ 73,577,500.00

**Meals Per
Week**
596,737

**Meals Per
Month**
2,585,860

Change in Net Assets **\$ 1,399,907.00**



ANNUAL MEETING AWARDEES

ALDI

Edward A. Mitchell Million Pound Club

Since 2021, ALDI's 19 local stores have donated 2.3 million pounds

Genisys Credit Union Philanthropic Leadership

Five years of matching support totaling \$74,020, in addition to \$82,580 contributed over 13 years

American Veterans of World War Partner Leadership

In 2025, distributed 458,851 pounds of food and hosted 40 pop-up pantries

Prairie Farms FRESH Leadership

Shared 3.9 million pounds in donations & purchased product, 3 to 4 truckloads of dairy per month

CAPTRUST

Community Leadership

Manages FBEM 401k, and helped secure a \$2,000 grant to help feed kids

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Alex Murray (Late), Board Chair
Retired, NALC, AFL-CIO

Peggy Haw Jury, Chair Elect
CFO, Michigan Association of CPAs

Antoine Burks, Vice Chair
Executive Leader

Greg Viener, Treasurer
Flint Market, President,
Huntington Bank

Leanne Panduren, Secretary
President & CEO, Rowe
Professional Services Company

Julianne Princinsky, Past Chair
Retired, President,
Baker College of Flint

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Nasir Ali
Founder & President, Advanced Urgent Care

Judge F. Kay Behm
United States District Judge
for Eastern District of Michigan

Steve Dawes
Director, UAW Region 1-D

Melany Gavulic
CEO, Hurley Medical Center

Elizabeth Latchana, Esq.
SVP, Director of Compliance, Lockton

Dick Skaff
President & Owner,
Skaff Furniture Carpet One

Emilee Thornton
Director - External Reporting,
The Dow Chemical Company

Jane Worthing
President & CEO, Genesee Packaging, Inc.

Edward A. Mitchell
Board Member Emeritus



END OF THE YEAR REVIEW

2025

FUNDRAISER HIGHLIGHTS

EMPTY BOWLS

NEW RECORD!
\$111,696 RAISED

**FEEDING
FRENZY**

NEW RECORD!
\$71,555 RAISED

★ **MARCH AGAINST
HUNGER** ★

157 GIFTS =
\$442,464 RAISED

**HOLIDAY
CAMPAIGN**

OCT 28 - DEC 31
\$1.6 MILLION RAISED

DEDICATED DONOR CLUB

**EASTERN
MICHIGAN**
DEDICATED DONOR CLUB

RECURRING GIFT
PROGRAM THAT
CONTRIBUTES
\$7,000
PER MONTH

PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS

SUMMER YOUTH INITIATIVE

85 STUDENTS HELPED PROCESS

1,038,012

POUNDS OF FOOD

AGENCY EXPRESS PORTAL

UPGRADED TO INCLUDE PHOTOS
AND NUTRITIONAL DETAILS

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

NEW MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE = CERVIS



- MONITOR VOLUNTEER HOURS
- ASSIGN PROJECTS
- MEASURE IMPACT

13,863 VOLUNTEERS WORKED **38,438** HOURS

TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS



- IMPROVED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
- IMPROVED BOARDROOM TECH
- UPGRADED STAFF COMPUTERS
- UPGRADED SOFTWARE

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



DTE FOUNDATION
\$50,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT
DISTRIBUTIONS

STATE RESPONSE
2,503,429 POUNDS OF
FOOD DISTRIBUTED
(2,086,191 MEALS)

CITY OF FLINT
900 SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD
BOXES FOR RESIDENTS

ANNUAL MEETING AWARDEES

**EDWARD A. MITCHELL MILLION
POUND CLUB AWARD**
ALDI

PARTNER LEADERSHIP
AMVETS

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
CAPTRUST

PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP
GENISYS CREDIT UNION

FRESH LEADERSHIP
PRAIRIE FARMS



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**FOOD
BANK**
of Eastern Michigan
2300 Lapeer Road
Flint, Michigan 48503
810.239.4441 • fbem.org

